

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment, filed 7/30/08, 10/24/08 and 12/30/08, is acknowledged.
2. The U.S. Patent 7,211,252 cited on the PTO FORM 892 is issued from the parental application serial No. 09/805,840.
3. Upon further reconsideration, the species of claim 90 are hereby rejoined.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

During the telephonic interview dated 10/21/08, Applicant points to the teachings of Lokhorst et al that "Because myeloma tumor cells or plasma cell lines lacking VLA-4, CD44, or LFA-1 are capable of inducing LTBMC IL-6 secretion, it seems unlikely that these adhesion molecules are directly involved in signaling processes essential for the regulation of IL-6 production", on page 2276, last sentence of second full ¶. Accordingly, the relationship between VLA-4 activity and IL-6 is at best problematic. Applicant points that the art as a whole demonstrates the unpredictability associated with anti-VLA-4 activity, and indicates that the observations with anti-IL-6 or anti-IL-6 receptor antibodies are not predictive of anti-VLA-4 activity for treatment of multiple myeloma. Accordingly, the claims drawn to a method for treating multiple myeloma in a subject comprising administering to the subject a combination of an anti-VLA-4 antibody, or antigen-binding fragment thereof, and a chemotherapeutic agent, wherein said combination is therapeutically effective to treat multiple myeloma in the subject are deemed allowable.

5. Claims 86-98 and 100-102 are pending and allowed.
6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maher Haddad whose telephone number is (571) 272-0845. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen B. O'Hara can be reached on (571) 272-0878. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1644

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 31, 2008

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